

What Can I Expect during a Listening Session?

Listening Sessions involve groups coming together to pray, reflect on scripture, listen to one another, dialogue about the Church for the future and submit ideas and hopes for the Church.

Your participation in the local Synodal Process can take place in person . During the Listening part of all dialogue sessions, each person will have an equal amount of time to share their thoughts and responses to questions applying it to any of the ten themes.

Responses will be submitted to the Diocese in order to compile a report to be presented to Bishop Alberto Rojas. What has been heard and discussed throughout the Diocese's synod process will not only be included in content compiled with Dioceses throughout the United States but will also be included in the pastoral planning for the future of our Diocese of San Bernardino.

Attitudes For Participating in the Synodal Process

Pope Francis has shared his vision for what the practice of Synodality looks like concretely. Synods are a time to dream and "spend time with the future." We are encouraged to create a local process that inspires people, with no one excluded to create a vision of the future filled with the joy of the Gospel. The attitudes below will help ensure positive dialogue:

Dialogue requires respect, Everyone has the right to be welcomed and heard, just as everyone has the right to speak. Following a dialogue session, if discussing your experience with others, it is extremely important to remember that what has been shared is not to be used as gossip.

Dialogue requires humility, Dialogue encourages others to consider another's viewpoint without debate, judgement or the intention to convince others.

Dialogue requires openness, to the Holy Spirit: We are called to be open to new thoughts and ideas. Synods are an exercise in discernment which is based on the conviction that God is at work in the world and we are called to listen to what the Spirit suggests to us. By learning from one another, we can better reflect the wonderful multi-faceted reality of what Christ's Church is meant to be.

Dialogue requires people over ideas, We need to overcome ideologies and avoid the risk of giving greater importance to ideas than to the reality of the concrete ways people live out their faith. Listening requires unity, Listening calls us to leave behind prejudices and stereotypes and have courage to look beyond how things have always been done.

Listening requires that all are seen as equal, The Church is the Body of Christ filled with different gifts in which each member has a unique role to play. We are all interdependent on one another and we all share an equal dignity amidst the holy people of God. Synodality calls upon pastors to listen attentively to the flock just as it calls the laity to freely and honestly express their views.

Synodality calls us to be beacons of hope, not prophets of doom. Focus not only on problems but appreciate where the Holy Spirit is generating life and see how we can let God work more fully.

Questionnaire

Session 1 “Come Together”



God has given us a moment to walk together. Please answer each question openly and honestly. You do not need to answer every question.

In the Church and in society we are side by side on the same road. In our parish, who are those who “walk together”?

Who are those who seem further apart? How are we called to grow as brothers and sisters? What groups or individuals are left on the margins?

Listening is the first step, but it requires an open mind and heart, without prejudice. Remember God is speaking to us through voices we sometimes ignore. What are some limitations in our ability to listen, especially to those who have different views than our own?



Questionnaire

Session 1 “Come Together”



How can we promote open and respectful, free, and constructive communication in our parishes and communities?

All are invited to speak with courage, freedom, truth, and charity. What enables or hinders speaking up courageously, candidly, and responsibly in our local Church and in society?

“Walking together” is only possible if it is based on communal listening to the Word and the celebration of the Eucharist. How do prayer and liturgical celebrations inspire and guide our life and mission in our family/community? How do they inspire the most important decisions?

How do we promote the active participation of all the faithful in the liturgy?